

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 3 are currently pending in the application.

This amendment is in response to the final Office Action of November 3, 2003 and the Advisory Action of January 28, 2004

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections

Anticipation Rejection Based on Kajihara et al. (U.S. Patent 5,378,656)

Claims 1 through 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kajihara et al. (U.S. Patent 5,378,656).

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Brothers v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Applicant respectfully submits that the Kajihara reference fails to anticipate Applicants invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102 because the Kajihara reference fails to expressly or inherently identically describe the element of the claimed invention of presently amended independent claim 1 calling for “forming a strip of lead frames, said strip having opposed rails, having dam bars between said opposed rails, having at least two inner leads located at a first level, having at least two outer leads located at a second level, having a die mount paddle located at a third level and having at least one integral clamping tab, said at least one integral clamping tab located at a fourth level extending outwardly for contact by said upper clamp member” and “aligning said strip of lead frames on said lower clamp member of said wire bonding device having said upper clamp member overlying portions of said at least two inner leads and portions of said at least one integral clamping tab forming a strip of lead frames, said strip having at least one integral clamping tab.”

Applicant asserts that the Kajihara reference only describes a lead frame having the leads at one level and the die paddle at another level, not the presently claimed lead frame having leads at two levels, the die paddle at a third level, and the tab at a fourth level. Therefore, the Kajihara

reference cannot anticipate the presently claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102 because it does not identically describe each and every element of the presently claimed invention in identical detail as set forth in the presently amended independent claim 1.

While the Office Action has asserted that the reference discloses an assembly method comprising “forming a strip of lead frames having at least one integral clamping tab[.]” The “tab” is identified as item 23, a strip of material which structurally connects die paddle 3 to outer portions of the lead frame in Figures 21, 22 and 25. Applicant respectfully again submits that structure 23 is not an “integral clamping tab.”

First, “the words of a claim must be given their ‘plain meaning’ unless they are defined in the specification.” MPEP 2111.01. The Merriam-Webster unabridged dictionary of the English language defines the word “tab” as “**1 a** : a short projecting device: as (1) : a small flap or loop by which something may be grasped or pulled (2) : a projection from a card used as an aid in filing **b** : a small insert, addition, or remnant **c** : Appendage, Extension[.]” Referring to Applicant’s Figure 2, clamping tabs 90 are clearly within the scope of the above definition. They have an end which is not attached and can be “grasped or pulled.” The structures are clearly extensions, projections or appendages of the die paddle. The Office Action, however, has applied the word to a piece of material (23 in Fig. 21) which connects two structures, and thus has no free end. Such a structure cannot function as a tab. The structure is not a tab within the common meaning of the word. Again, because not all of the elements of Claim 1 are expressly or inherently identically described in Kajihara, Claim 1 is not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102 by Kajihara.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is allowable. In failing to describe a tab, Kajihara also fails to disclose the following element of claim 2 calling for “deforming said at least one integral clamping tab to clamp portions thereof.”

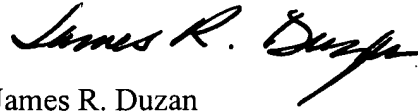
Claims 2 and 3 are allowable for the additional reason of depending from an allowable claim.

In summary, Applicant submits that presently amended claims 1 through 3 are clearly allowable over the cited prior art for the reasons set forth herein.

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Applicant requests the entry of this amendment, the allowance of claims 1 through 3, and the case passed for issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Duzan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

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